

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2986
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2001
CENTRAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME
A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Agriculture specific programmes meant for allocation of foodgrains to the States are not suitable according to needs of the States;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Governments have consulted the State Governments while formulating such programmes;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Union Government have initiated steps to formulate the programmes according to the needs of the States; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e)&(f): The foodgrains are allotted to the States/UTs from central pool for families below poverty line (BPL) and above poverty line (APL) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) introduced in June, 1997. The TPDS was launched after extensive consultation with the State Government at various fora. The conference of Chief Ministers on Basic Minimum Services held during 4-5 July, 1996 welcomed the proposal to streamline the Public Distribution System with focus on the population below poverty line and issue of foodgrains to them at specially subsidized prices. The conference of State Food Ministers held on 7.8.1996 to discuss further the question of targeting the PDS also unanimously endorsed the proposal for targeted PDS especially the provision of subsidised foodgrains to the BPL population and recommended that the Central Government bring the targeted PDS into force as soon as possible.